



JMUN 2023

SECURITY COUNCIL



Discussing the Current State
of Affairs of the Israel-
 Hamas War
BACKGROUND GUIDE



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Agenda

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Executive Board	4
Introduction to UNSC	6
Introduction to Agenda	7
Recent Developments	10
Key Terms	11
Timeline	15
Relevant UN Treaties/International Law	17
QARMA	21
General MUN Rules of Procedure	23
Further Reading	24



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings Delegates!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the United Nations Security Council of the 2024 edition of the Junior Model United Nations Conference of Greenwood High!

We, the executive board of the United Nations Security Council, hope you are prepared to step into the world of Model United Nations. The UNSC is the executive body of the United Nations, and is undoubtedly one of the most demanding committees. We expect all delegates to have an extensive understanding of foreign policy, the crisis at hand and most importantly - international law.

As delegates, you will traverse a landscape of dire international issues and work towards a resolution through debate and compromise - leaders of a world yet to be. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." In today's world of uncertain freedom and covert conflict, an especially relevant concern that has only gotten worse with time is that of the Israel-Hamas war. Two countries on the brink of fracture, families torn apart, scores of innocent lives taken - and it is upon your shoulders to formulate effective resolutions to this agenda.

Though this might be a lot to take in, worry not because we are here to assist you. To begin your research read and understand the information provided to you in this guide. We have covered major aspects of your research stretching from the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict to documents and concepts of international law that you should know. However - keep in mind that your research should not end here. Once you've familiarised yourself with the agenda at hand, we would encourage you to continue researching and take a deep dive into the topic (no Wikipedia please). Our further reading section is a great place to start!

Good preparation is important, but your performance in the MUN is how you showcase that you've prepared well and hence deserve an award in return. The performance of this committee is contingent on your ability to move the committee forward through the use of speeches, chits and directives. We encourage each and every delegate to speak up and put forward their points throughout the duration of this conference. We know speaking in front of a committee full of people can be daunting, but unbelievable growth lies on the other side of fear. We promise to do our very best to cultivate an environment where you feel comfortable speaking, and we expect your very best in return. Moreover, we encourage you to remember the gravity of the crises at hand - including the vast impact that it has on countless lives.

We encourage you to work towards feasible solutions to the crisis.

We look forward to seeing each and every single one of you excel at GWH JMUN 2024.

Warm regards,

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INTRODUCTION TO UNSC

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) stands as one of the six primary organs within the United Nations (UN) and is entrusted with the responsibility of upholding global peace and security. Its duties encompass recommending new UN member admissions to the General Assembly and approving modifications to the UN Charter. The powers bestowed upon the UNSC by the United Nations Charter extend to the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the imposition of international sanctions, and the authorization of military actions. Notably, the UNSC holds the exclusive authority within the UN to issue resolutions that carry binding implications for member states.

Much like the broader UN institution, the Security Council emerged in the aftermath of World War II, aiming to address the shortcomings of the League of Nations in maintaining global peace. Its inaugural session took place on January 17, 1946, though its effectiveness was significantly hindered during the Cold War era marked by tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. Despite this, the UNSC granted approval for military interventions in the Korean War and the Congo Crisis, along with endorsing peacekeeping missions in Cyprus, West New Guinea, and the Sinai Peninsula. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the scale of UN peacekeeping efforts expanded considerably, with the Security Council authorising substantial military and peacekeeping ventures in various regions.

Comprising fifteen members, the Security Council includes five permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—recognized as the victorious powers of World War II or their successor states. These permanent members possess the authority to veto any substantive Security Council resolution, covering matters such as the admission of new UN member states or nominations for the Secretary-General position. This veto power, however, does not extend to General Assembly proceedings or emergency special sessions. The remaining ten members are elected regionally for a two-year term, with the council's presidency rotating on a monthly basis among its members. For the purpose of this committee, ten observer states have been added to encourage fruitful debate on the agenda.



INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The Israel-Hamas conflict is a long-standing and complex geopolitical dispute rooted in historical, religious, and territorial tensions in the Middle East. At its core, the conflict involves the State of Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas, with roots tracing back to the mid-20th century.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict dates back to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1947, the United Nations adopted Resolution 181, known as the Partition Plan, which sought to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was created, sparking the first Arab-Israeli War. The war ended in 1949 with Israel's victory, but 750,000 Palestinians were displaced, and the territory was divided into 3 parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip.

Over the following years, tensions rose in the region, particularly between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Following the 1956 Suez Crisis and Israel's invasion of the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria signed mutual defence pacts in anticipation of a possible mobilisation of Israeli troops. In June 1967, following a series of manoeuvres by Egyptian President Abdel Gamal Nasser, Israel preemptively attacked Egyptian and Syrian air forces, starting the Six-Day War. After the war, Israel gained territorial control over the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt; the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan; and the Golan Heights from Syria.

Six years later, in what is referred to as the Yom Kippur War or the October War, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise two-front attack on Israel to regain their lost territory; the conflict did not result in significant gains for Egypt, Israel, or Syria, but Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat declared the war a victory for Egypt as it allowed Egypt and Syria to negotiate over previously ceded territory. Finally, in 1979, following a series of cease-fires and peace negotiations, representatives from Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David Accords, a peace treaty that ended the thirty-year conflict between Egypt and Israel.

Even though the Camp David Accords improved relations between Israel and its neighbours, the question of Palestinian self-determination and self-governance remai-

-ned unresolved. In 1987, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip rose up against the Israeli government in what is known as the first intifada. The 1993 Oslo I Accords mediated the conflict, setting up a framework for the Palestinians to govern themselves in the West Bank and Gaza, and enabled mutual recognition between the newly established Palestinian Authority and Israel's government. In 1995, the Oslo II Accords expanded on the first agreement, adding provisions that mandated the complete withdrawal of Israel from 6 cities and 450 towns in the West Bank.

In 2000, sparked in part by Palestinian grievances over Israel's control over the West Bank, a stagnating peace process, and former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's visit to the al-Aqsa mosque—the third holiest site in Islam—in September 2000, Palestinians launched the second intifada, which would last until 2005. In response, the Israeli government approved the construction of a barrier wall around the West Bank in 2002, despite opposition from the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

Factionalism among the Palestinians flared up when Hamas won the Palestinian Authority's parliamentary elections in 2006, deposing longtime majority party Fatah. This gave Hamas, a political and militant movement inspired by the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood, control of the Gaza Strip. Gaza is a small piece of land on the Mediterranean Sea that borders Egypt to the south and has been under the rule of the semi-autonomous Palestinian Authority since 1993. The United States and European Union, among others, did not acknowledge Hamas' electoral victory, as the group has been considered a terrorist organisation by western governments since the late 1990s. Following Hamas' seizure of control, violence broke out between Hamas and Fatah. Between 2006 and 2011, a series of failed peace talks and deadly confrontations culminated in an agreement to reconcile. Fatah entered into a unity government with Hamas in 2014.

In the summer of 2014, clashes in the Palestinian territories precipitated a military confrontation between the Israeli military and Hamas in which Hamas fired nearly three thousand rockets at Israel, and Israel retaliated with a major offensive in Gaza. The skirmish ended in late August 2014 with a cease-fire deal brokered by Egypt, but only after 73 Israelis and 2,251 Palestinians were killed. After a wave of violence between Israelis and Palestinians in 2015, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah announced that Palestinians would no longer be bound by the territorial divisions created by the Oslo Accords.

In March of 2018, Israeli troops killed 183 Palestinians and wounded 6,000 others after some Palestinians stormed the perimeter fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel and threw rocks during an otherwise peaceful demonstration. Just months later, Hamas militants fired over one hundred rockets into Israel, and Israel responded with strikes on more than fifty targets in Gaza during a twenty-four-hour flare-up. The ten-

-se political atmosphere resulted in a return to disunity between Fatah and Hamas, with Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party controlling the Palestinian Authority from the West Bank and Hamas de facto ruling the Gaza Strip.

The Donald J. Trump administration reversed longstanding U.S. policy by cancelling funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency, which provides aid to Palestinian refugees, and relocating the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Trump administration also helped broker the Abraham Accords, under which Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates normalised relations with Israel, becoming only the third and fourth countries in the region—following Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994—to do so. Similar deals followed with Morocco and Sudan. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah rejected the accords, as did Hamas.

In early May 2021, after a court ruled in favour of the eviction of several Palestinian families from East Jerusalem properties, protests erupted, with Israeli police employing force against demonstrators. After several consecutive days of violence, Hamas, the militant group which governs Gaza, and other Palestinian militant groups launched hundreds of rockets into Israeli territory. Israel responded with artillery bombardments and airstrikes, killing more than twenty Palestinians and hitting both military and non-military infrastructure, including residential buildings, media headquarters, and refugee and healthcare facilities. After eleven days, Israel and Hamas agreed to a cease-fire, with both sides claiming victory. The fighting killed more than 250 Palestinians and at least 13 Israelis, wounded nearly 2,000 others, and displaced 72,000 Palestinians.

The most far-right and religious government in Israel's history, led by Benjamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu and his Likud party and comprising two ultra-Orthodox parties and three far-right parties, was inaugurated in late December 2022. The coalition government prioritised the expansion and development of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, endorsed discrimination against LGBTQ+ people on religious grounds, and voted to limit judicial oversight of the government in May 2023 after a delay due to nationwide protests in March.



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In early October 2023, war broke out between Israel and Hamas, the militant Islamist group that has controlled Gaza since 2006, in the most significant escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in several decades. Hamas fighters fired rockets into Israel and stormed southern Israeli cities and towns across the border of the Gaza Strip, killing more than 1,300 Israelis, injuring 3,300, and taking hundreds of hostages. The attack took Israel by surprise, though the state quickly mounted a deadly retaliatory operation. One day after the October 7 attack, the Israeli cabinet formally declared war against Hamas, followed by a directive from the defence minister to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to carry out a “complete siege” of Gaza.

Since then, the two sides have traded daily rocket fire, and Israel ordered more than one million Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza to evacuate ahead of a ground invasion that began on October 28. Israeli forces have encircled Gaza City, cutting it off from southern Gaza and squeezing Hamas. Hundreds of thousands of civilians remain in the city. Gazan health officials say the war has killed 10,000 Palestinians, including more than 4,000 children. The territory is also desperately low on water, fuel, and supplies as Israel has rejected humanitarian pauses and limited the amount of aid that can enter.

The displacement of millions more Palestinians presents a dilemma for Egypt and Jordan, which have absorbed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the past but have resisted accepting anyone during the current war. They fear that Gazans, many of whom were already displaced from elsewhere in Israel, will not be allowed to return once they leave. Egypt also fears that Hamas fighters could enter Egypt and trigger a new war in the Sinai by launching attacks on Israel or destabilising the authoritarian regime of Abdel Fattah el-Sisi by supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. So far, negotiations have resulted in only 1,100 people exiting Gaza through the Rafah border crossing to Egypt. The other 1.5 million displaced Gazans — 70% of the territory’s population — have nowhere to go and face increasingly dire living conditions and security risks.



KEY TERMS

State-Sponsored Violence

The use of a government's resources and institutions to carry out violent acts against individuals, groups, or other states.

Extrajudicial Killings

Unlawful and deliberate killings by the state or its agents without due legal process.

Non-State Actors

Non-state actors are autonomous entities separate from government control. They include groups such as NGOs, rebel organisations, and corporations, exerting influence in various domains, often beyond traditional state authority.

Torture

The deliberate infliction of physical or psychological pain or suffering by state agents or institutions as a means of control or punishment.

Genocide

Deliberate and systematic extermination of a particular ethnic, racial, religious, or national group by a state.

Crimes Against Humanity

Widespread and systematic acts of violence, such as murder, enslavement, and persecution, committed by a state against its population or in the context of an armed conflict.

Security Forces

The state's law enforcement, military, and intelligence agencies responsible for maintaining order and security, which can sometimes be involved in state-sponsored violence.

Paramilitary Groups

Unofficial armed groups operating with the support, funding, or approval of the state to carry out violent acts.

Censorship

The suppression of information, media, or expression by the state to control or manipulate public perception.

Civil War

An internal armed conflict between different groups within a state, often involving state-sponsored violence against its citizens.

War Crimes

Violations of international humanitarian law during armed conflicts, including acts such as targeting civilians, using banned weapons, and attacking humanitarian aid.

Massacre

The indiscriminate killing of a large number of people by state authorities or affiliated groups.

Ethnic Cleansing

The forced removal or elimination of an ethnic or religious group from a specific territory by the state.

UN Human Rights Council

A United Nations body responsible for addressing human rights issues, investigating state-sponsored violence, and making recommendations for accountability and justice.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

A global judicial institution that prosecutes individuals responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, including state officials involved in state-sponsored violence.

Transitional Justice

Transitional justice refers to the process of addressing human rights abuses, including state-sponsored violence, in the aftermath of conflicts or authoritarian regimes. It often involves truth commissions, prosecutions, and reparations.

Impunity

Impunity refers to the lack of accountability for those who commit state-sponsored violence, often due to inadequate legal mechanisms or political protection.

R2P (Responsibility to Protect)

R2P is a principle in international law that asserts the responsibility of states and the international community to protect populations from mass atrocities, including state-sponsored violence.

Rocket Attacks

Launching projectiles from one territory to another, often used by non-state actors like Hamas against Israel.

Aerial Strikes

Military attacks conducted from the air, commonly employed by states against specific targets in the opposing territory.

Blockade

Imposing restrictions on the movement of goods and people in and out of a territory, as seen in the blockade of Gaza by Israel.

Ceasefire

A temporary suspension of hostilities negotiated or unilaterally declared, aimed at creating a pause in the conflict.

Settlements

Israeli communities established in the West Bank, a source of contention as they are often seen as an obstacle to peace.

Occupation

Refers to the control and governance of a territory by a foreign power, such as Israel's presence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Two-State Solution

A proposed resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, advocating for the establishment of both Israeli and Palestinian states coexisting side by side.

Intifada

Arabic for "uprising," it refers to periods of Palestinian resistance against Israeli rule, involving protests, strikes, and sometimes violence.

Refugee Crisis

The displacement of Palestinians, particularly after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, leading to a significant refugee population.

Iron Dome

Israel's anti-missile defence system designed to intercept and destroy incoming short-range rockets.

Tunnels

Underground passages used by Hamas for smuggling weapons and infiltrating into Israel, leading to conflicts over tunnel detection and destruction.

International Mediation

Involvement of third-party entities or nations to facilitate negotiations and peace talks between Israel and Palestine.

Jerusalem

A city of religious significance for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, with disputes over its sovereignty and control.

Nationalism

Strong identification with one's national identity, influencing the perspectives and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.

UN Resolutions

International decisions made by the United Nations concerning the Israel-Palestine conflict, which may include calls for ceasefires, negotiations, or condemnations.

Media Bias

Perceived favouritism or prejudice in media coverage, with different perspectives on whether media outlets favour Israel, Palestine, or maintain neutrality.

Humanitarian Crisis

A situation where the well-being of the civilian population is severely compromised, often due to conflict-related factors.

Hamas Governance

The political and militant organisation that governs the Gaza Strip, is recognized as a terrorist group by some nations and embraced by others as a legitimate political entity.

West Bank Barrier

A physical barrier built by Israel in the West Bank to prevent the unauthorised movement of Palestinians into Israel, viewed as a security measure by Israel and a barrier to Palestinian freedom of movement.

Regional Dynamics

Involvement and influence of neighbouring countries in the Israel-Hamas conflict, impacting the geopolitical landscape of the region.





TIMELINE

1 8 9 7

The first Zionist congress took place in Switzerland, and the first Zionist organisation was founded.

1 9 1 6

European Powers concluded a secret Sykes-Picot agreement dividing future spheres of influence in the Ottoman Empire's territories. (The region of Palestine was given to the British)

1 9 1 7

The Balfour Declaration was issued, promising a "National home for the Jewish People in Palestine".

1 9 1 8

World War 1 ended, and the British took control of Palestine.

1 9 1 9

Arab Nations started negotiating for independence.

1 9 2 2

The League of Nations assigned the area of Palestine as a British Mandated Territory. Provisions include the terms of the Balfour Declaration.

1 9 2 9

Al-Buraq Uprising took place, the first mass protest against Jewish immigration into Palestine.

1 9 3 3

Jewish immigration increased due to Nazi persecution in Germany. Riots continued against Jewish Immigration.

1 9 3 6

6-month-long strike in Palestine in protest against Jewish immigration.

1 9 3 7

Peel Commission recommended a partition transferring Palestinians from land allocated to a Jewish state. International Zones were to be administered because of the overwhelming historical and religious importance Jerusalem held.

1 9 3 9

The UK issued "White Paper" limiting Jewish immigration.

1 9 4 2

American Zionists adopted the "Biltmore Declaration" at the Zionist Conference in New York City. American-Zionist relations solidified.

1 9 4 7 (N o v e m b e r)

Resolution 181 (ii) is adopted by the UN General Assembly calling for an unnamed “Jewish State” and an unnamed “Arab State” with Jerusalem placed under UN Trusteeship.

1 9 4 8 (A p r i l)

Deir Yassin Massacre; Zionist parliamentary groups killed hundreds of Palestinian Arabs in Deir Yassin - A village near Jerusalem.

1 9 4 8 (M a y)

The mandate over Palestine was cancelled and Israel declared independence. Territorial expansion using force resulted in many Palestinians fleeing, causing a refugee crisis. The First Arab-Israeli War begins.

1 9 4 8 (D e c e m b e r)

Israel won the war and retained the territory given to it by the UN. The UN General Assembly passed Resolution 194 calling for the repatriation of Palestinian refugees.

1 9 4 9

Israel signed armistice agreements with Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Israel was admitted into the UN as a member state.

1 9 6 4

The Palestinian Liberation Organisation was founded in Cairo.

1 9 6 7 (J u n e)

The Six Days War ended in a decisive victory for Israel. Israel gained territory that was primarily inhabited by Palestinians.

1 9 6 7 (N o v e m b e r)

The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 242 called for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in the recent conflict.

1 9 7 3

The “Yom Kippur War” is fought. The Soviet Union and the USA got involved as they aided opposing sides in the war. The UNSC passed Resolution 338 which implemented UNSC Resolution 242.

1 9 7 4

The PLO was recognised as the sole representative of the Palestinian people by the UN. The UNGA reaffirmed the rights of the Palestinian people in Resolution 3236.

1 9 7 8

The Camp David Accords were signed by Israel and Egypt. The parties were committed to discussing the disposition of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

1 9 8 7

The First “Intifada” began. Hamas was established and endorsed jihad as a way to regain territory. The USA designated Hamas a foreign *terrorist* organisation in 1997.

1 9 8 8 (D e c e m b e r)

PLO Chairman denounced violence, acknowledged Israel’s right to exist, and acknowledged UNSC Resolution 242. The Palestinian National Council adopted the Declaration of Independence of the State of Palestine.

1 9 9 3

“Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements” or the Oslo Accords were signed between the PLO and Israel. An agreement was reached on the formation of a Palestinian Authority to temporarily administer the Gaza Strip. Israel agreed to withdraw from certain areas of the West Bank.

1 9 9 4

The Gaza-Jericho Agreement began the implementation of the Oslo Accords.

1 9 9 5

The Oslo II Accords were signed.

2 0 0 0

Controversial actions by Israeli Politicians (namely President Ariel Sharon) incited demonstrations that turned violent. This marked the beginning of the second intifada.

2 0 0 3

The “Quartet” (composed of the UN, USA, EU and Russia) published the “Roadmap for Peace” and was endorsed by the UNSC in Resolution 1515.

2 0 0 6

Hamas won the Palestinian Legislative Elections. Fatah and Hamas attempted to govern together but failed to do so. Hamas took over the Gaza Strip in 2007.

2 0 0 8

Israel attacks Gaza in response to nearly 800 rocket attacks from Gaza on Israeli towns. The war killed many civilians and sparked international criticism.

2 0 0 9

UNHRC investigative body was created to investigate violations of human rights in the war. The results were submitted in the Goldstone Report.

2 0 1 4

Israel launched “Operation Protective Edge”.

2 0 1 6

UNSC adopted Resolution 2334 which declared Israeli settlement activity as a “flagrant violation” of international law and has “no legal validity”.

2 0 1 7 a n d 2 0 1 9

The US recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moved its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Trump administration also recognised Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights and was the first country to do so apart from Israel themselves.

2 0 2 1

Evictions of Palestinians in East Jerusalem sparked conflict between Israel and Hamas. Ceasefire was negotiated by the Biden Administration.

2 0 2 3 (O c t o b e r 7 t h)

Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on Israel. Killing 250 people, injuring 1500 and 250 civilians taken hostage made it the “deadliest attack on the country in ages” according to Israeli media.

2 0 2 3 (O c t o b e r 1 7 t h)

The United States vetoed a resolution between Israel and Hamas citing Israel's right to self-defence.





RELEVANT UN TREATIES & INTERNATIONAL LAW

Balfour Declaration

The Balfour Declaration was a statement issued by the British government in 1917, expressing support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. This declaration played a significant role in the later establishment of the State of Israel.

Biltmore Declaration

Issued in 1942 during World War II, the Biltmore Declaration called for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine and the unrestricted immigration of Jews. It reflected a shift in American Zionist policy and influenced the post-war discussions on the future of Palestine.

Resolution 181 (ii)

UN Partition Plan (1947): Also known as the UN Partition Plan, Resolution 181 proposed the division of British Mandate Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with an international administration for Jerusalem. While accepted by the Jewish leadership, it was rejected by Arab leaders, leading to the Arab-Israeli War of 1948.

Resolution 194

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, Resolution 194 addresses the rights of Palestinian refugees. It includes a provision asserting the right of return for Palestinian refugees and compensation for those choosing not to return.

Resolution 242

Adopted in the aftermath of the Six-Day War in 1967, Resolution 242 emphasizes the "land for peace" principle, calling for Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied during the conflict in exchange for recognition and secure boundaries for all states in the region.

Resolution 338

Passed in the aftermath of the Yom Kippur War in 1973, Resolution 338 called for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations between the involved parties. It emphasized the need for a just and lasting peace in the region.

Resolution 3236

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1974, Resolution 3236 reaffirms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, national independence, and sovereignty.

Oslo Accords

The Oslo Accords, signed in the 1990s between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), marked a series of agreements aimed at establishing a framework for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They included provisions for self-governance in parts of the West Bank and Gaza.

Gaza-Jericho Agreement

Signed in 1994, the Gaza-Jericho Agreement was a follow-up to the Oslo Accords, leading to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho, marking the beginning of a phased transfer of authority from Israel to the Palestinians.

Oslo II Accords

Building on the Oslo Accords, the Oslo II Accords, signed in 1995, further delineated the division of the West Bank into areas of Palestinian and Israeli control, leading to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in additional West Bank areas.

Resolution 1515

Adopted in 2003, Resolution 1515 endorsed the Quartet's Roadmap for Peace, outlining a series of steps toward a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Resolution 2334

Passed in 2016, Resolution 2334 addresses Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, declaring them a violation of international law. The resolution calls for a halt to settlement activities and emphasises the need to preserve the two-state solution.



QARMA

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

How can an immediate and sustainable ceasefire be achieved to halt the current hostilities?

How can safe and unimpeded access to humanitarian aid be ensured to address the urgent needs of civilians affected by the conflict?

What mechanisms can be established to investigate and hold accountable parties responsible for violations of international humanitarian law?

How can efforts be coordinated to facilitate the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and the rehabilitation of affected communities?

What diplomatic initiatives can be pursued to restart meaningful negotiations between Israel and Hamas, addressing the root causes of the conflict?

How can measures be implemented to enhance the protection of civilians, including the prevention of civilian casualties and the safeguarding of civilian infrastructure?

What role can regional and international actors play in facilitating a lasting and just resolution to the conflict?

How can underlying issues such as political grievances, economic disparities, and historical disputes be addressed to promote long-term stability?

How can the rights and needs of displaced populations, including refugees, be addressed in the aftermath of the conflict?

What measures can be taken to provide credible security assurances for both Israel and the Gaza Strip, fostering an environment conducive to lasting peace?

How can efforts be made to address the issue of weapon proliferation and work towards the demilitarisation of non-state actors in the region?

How can adherence to international law, including human rights law and the law of armed conflict, be ensured by all parties involved in the conflict?



RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules of procedure refer to the formal conduct delegates are expected to maintain during the conference. It is essential to adhere to the rules and maintain decorum for the smooth flow of the committee. For this conference, we will be adhering to the UNA-USA format of rules of procedure.

Begin formal session

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” puts forward a motion to begin the formal session.

Setting the Agenda

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” puts forward a motion to set the agenda as “Agenda of the committee”.

Roll Call

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to begin a roll call. When your allotted country is called upon during the roll call, you have two options either say “present and voting” or simply say “present”. (Note: If a delegate says “present and voting”, they cannot abstain from voting on the resolution at the end of committee.)

General Speaker's List

Committee generally begins formal debate by starting the ‘GSL’ (General Speaker’s list). It serves the purpose of allowing a delegate to express their stance on the agenda. A GSL is non-exhaustive.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to establish the general speakers’ list

Moderated Caucus

This motion can be raised when the committee wants to debate on a specific topic.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to suspend formal session/debate and move into a Moderated Caucus on “topic” for a time period of “x” minutes allotting “x” minute per speaker. In case a delegate does not get recognized to speak, a delegate can send in your point through substantive chit.

Format of Substantive Chits

Substantive chits are written as follows;

To: The Executive Board (may be abbreviated as EB)

From Delegate of: (your allocated country)

Unmoderated Caucus

This motion is proposed when delegates wish to discuss the committee's status among themselves and further evaluate their next actions.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allotted country” raises a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated Caucus for a time period of “x” minutes.

Points

Point of Parliamentary Enquiry

This point is raised by a delegate to clarify anything regarding the rules of procedure or to know the status of the committee (For example: to know which delegate is speaking next/ if the EB is accepting more speakers)

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of a parliamentary inquiry.

Point of Personal Privilege

This point is raised by a delegate to address a personal issue. (For example: to ask another delegate to repeat a point they made in their speech/to be excused from the committee)

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of personal privilege.

Point of Order

This point can be raised by a delegate to point out logical or factual inaccuracies in the speeches of other delegates.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of order, Factual inaccuracy/ Logical Fallacy (either one).

Point of Information

This is raised when a delegate wants to ask questions about another delegate's speech.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” raises a point of information. If you ask a question and are still not satisfied with the answer, you can raise a follow-up question right after the delegate answers.

How to raise it? : The delegate of “your allocated country” wants to raise a follow-up question (*Note: This point can be denied if the Chairperson feels so*).

If a delegate wants to ask a question via chit, you can use this format -

POINT OF INFORMATION

TO: Delegate of “country you want to question”

VIA: Executive Board

FROM: Delegate of “your allotted country”

****state the question****

Working Paper

A working paper is the preliminary draft of solutions that the committee comes up with and is usually turned in and presented by the blocs on the second day. They serve as a basis for delegates to see which blocs have stances that align with theirs and to subsequently merge for drafting the final resolution.

Working papers have no strict format. That is, operative and preambulatory clauses are not required, and the paper can also be presented in a series of rough points.

Sponsors are delegates who have contributed the most towards writing the working paper. For presentation and Q&A, any delegate from the bloc can come up to present the paper and answer relevant questions.

Draft Resolution

A draft resolution or resolution, contains all the solutions that committee wants to introduce in the form of a formal document that will be discussed and put to vote in front of the committee. If passed, this acts as a set of suggestions and recommendations to those who agree with it on the issue at hand.

Sponsors are those who have majorly written the resolution, whose countries must agree with every clause and amendment. The number of sponsors is usually kept between 2 and 4, this will be informed to the committee on the day of the conference.

Signatories are those who would like to see the resolution discussed in front of the committee. A signatory does not necessarily agree with the resolution, just wants to see it be debated. A delegate can be a signatory to more than one resolution. Resolutions must have at least 1/3rd of the committee's strength as signatories to be able to present them to the committee.

An amendment to a resolution is in the form of an edit, addition, or deletion to the resolution that has been presented to the committee. This is usually sent to the chairs after the resolution has been discussed and through a motion, the committee is in an amendment session. If more than 1/3rd the number of a resolution's total number of operative clauses are accepted as amendments, the resolution will be scrapped. When an amendment is presented to the chairs, the sponsors of the resolution will be given the option to either accept it as friendly or unfriendly. A friendly amendment is automatically accepted, and the content that was aimed to be changed, added or deleted is done as such. An unfriendly amendment means that the committee will vote, to decide whether or not the change shall be made. This is done through a simple majority vote.

- 1) **(To introduce Resolution)** the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to introduce *RESOLUTION NAME*
- 2) **(Amendments)** The delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to move into the amendment session for *RESOLUTION NAME*
- 3) **(To vote on the resolution)** the delegate of “your allotted country” would like to raise a motion to table the *RESOLUTION NAME* for the voting procedure.

Resolution Format

(Name of resolution)

Sponsors:

Signatories:

Topic: XYZ

Committee name,

(Preambulatory Clauses)

1. Every preambulatory clause ends with a comma (,)

(Operative clauses)

1. Every Operative clause ends with a semicolon (;)

2. Every sub-clause to a resolution should end with a comma (,) till and unless it is the last sub-clause to the main clause, it shall end with a semicolon (;)

3. Every main clause before starting with a sub-clause should have a colon (:)

4. Full stop at the end of the resolution.

Voting

Voting is of 2 types, procedural and substantive. Procedural voting requires a simple majority, which is set at 50%+1 of committee strength. For example, if a committee has 100 people, the simple majority is set at 51 votes. Procedural Voting is used in cases such as voting upon motions. Substantive voting requires a 2/3rds majority. This is primarily used in voting upon a resolution. For example, if a committee has 100 members, the majority will be set at 67 votes.

Press Conference

The questions may range from matters of foreign policy, the agenda itself or controversial actions by the respective nations of the delegates, with the intended purpose being to test the depth of the research and knowledge of the delegates.



FURTHER READING

Balfour Declaration

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/aut-o-insert-193242/>

Roadmap to Peace

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/aut-o-insert-186742/>

The League of Nations Mandate for
Palestine

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/aut-o-insert-201057/>

Goldstone Report

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/aut-o-insert-182039/>

Biltmore Declaration

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/aut-o-insert-206268/>

Timeline from 1947 to Present Day

<https://world101.cfr.org/understanding-international-system/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict-timeline>

Detailed Timeline of Conflicts

https://remix.aljazeera.com/aje/PalestineRemix/timeline_main.html

The UN Historical Timeline

<https://www.un.org/unispal/historical-timeline/>

Further Information about Riots

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/arab-riots-of-the-1920-s>

Britannica Article on the Israel-Hamas

Conflict

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hamas/Conflict-with-Israel>

Palestinian Declaration of Independence

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/aut-o-insert-178680/>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hamas/Conflict-with-Israel>